

**Beaufort Sea Oil and Gas Lease  
(Sale 124)**

***Public Hearings***

**Nuiqsut**

**1990**

1 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
2 MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
3 ALASKA OCS REGION  
4  
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6  
7 PUBLIC HEARING  
8 OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
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11 ALASKA OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF  
12 BEAUFORT SEA PLANNING AREA  
13 OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 124  
14 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (DEIS)  
15  
16  
17

18 Held at:

19 NUIQSUT, ALASKA

20 Thursday, April 19, 1990  
21 1:00 o'clock p.m.  
22 Community Center  
23  
24

25 Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording  
and transcript produced by:

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1		<u>TABLE OF CONTENTS</u>	
2	<u>PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF:</u>		<u>PAGE</u>
3	NELSON AHVAKANA		11
4	ISAAC NUKAPIGAK		17
5	THOMAS NAPAGEAK		21
6	SARAH KUNAKNANA		28
7	JOSEPH ERICKLOOK		33
8	JOE KASAK		34
9	MARGARET GEGOSEAK		37
10	BERNICE PASULA		38
11	MAYNIE AHNUPKNAK		42
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

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1                    NUIQSUT, ALASKA - PUBLIC HEARING PROCEEDINGS

2  
3        (Tape No. 1)

4        (On record at approximately 1:00 o'clock p.m.)

5                    HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Welcome to the Draft  
6        Environmental Impact Statement hearings for Oil and Gas Lease  
7        Sale 124 in the Beaufort Sea.

8                    My name is Bob Brock. I'm the Regional Supervisor for  
9        Leasing Environment Office of -- in the Anchorage OCS Region --  
10       in -- I'm sorry -- in the Alaska OCS Region of Minerals  
11       Management Service in Anchorage. Other members of the panel  
12       are the Deputy Director from the MMS in Anchorage, Irv Palmer;  
13       on his right is Barry Boudreau, who is the Deputy Regional  
14       Supervisor for Field Operations; and on my left, I'm sure most  
15       of you know, is John Schindler, who is the Chief of the  
16       Environmental Assessment Division and is basically the person  
17       that prepares the Environmental Impact Statement that we're.....

18                    MR. SCHINDLER: My staff, not me.

19                    HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, responsible for  
20       preparing it. Just quickly, I'd like to show you on the map  
21       what area we're talking about just so that there's no  
22       confusion, and that's the -- we will leave this map -- the  
23       map -- the proposal, the Environmental Impact Statement. Right  
24       here's Barrow, Kaktovik, and the Canadian line. Nuiqsut is  
25       right, just off the map, down here. It covers an area between

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1 offshore three miles and about 60 to 70 miles offshore in this  
2 entire area from the Canadian line to just west of Barrow, and  
3 it basically is the same area that was in the previous offering  
4 in 1988. But it covers -- and the shaded blocks on that map  
5 are the ones that have been leased previously.

6 This is the third public hearing. We've held a  
7 hearing in Barrow the night before last; we were in Kaktovik  
8 yesterday; and we have one more after today. We'll be in  
9 Anchorage on Friday, tomorrow, to hold the last public hearing.

10 The purpose of this hearing is to receive the views,  
11 comments, and suggestions of interested individuals like  
12 yourself and any representatives of local or federal government.

13 Before we start the hearing itself, I'd like to give  
14 you a little background about the leasing proposal that this  
15 EIS pertains to and the process that we're following to make  
16 decisions about this proposal. Federal oil and gas leasing in  
17 the Beaufort Sea began with the sale we called BF. It was a  
18 joint sale just off Prudhoe Bay with the State of Alaska, and  
19 it was held in December 1979. The fact is, I was just looking  
20 at my record; this is my -- the seventh time I've been in  
21 Nuiqsut since 1978, and I enjoy coming back here. Since then,  
22 we've had three lease -- three additional lease sales in the  
23 Beaufort Sea. We had Sale 71 in 1982; we had Sale 87 in 1984;  
24 and Sale 97 in 1988. As a result of these four sales, the  
25 federal government has leased approximately three million

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1 acres; on those three million acres, there have been 21 wells  
2 drilled. Eight of those wells have been classified as  
3 producible, although no production has begun on any of the  
4 wells at this time nor have we received any production plans,  
5 which is a requirement before any production can begin.

6 In addition to that, we have -- over the past 15  
7 years, we have conducted over 200 studies in both environmental  
8 and socio-economic areas concerning -- that are applicable to  
9 this area that we're talking about. The Draft EIS covers  
10 approximately 22 million acres.

11 The major goal of this sale, in accordance with the  
12 Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, is to find out more  
13 precisely what our domestic energy supplies are, where they're  
14 located, how much they'd cost to produce, and allow them to be  
15 produced, if possible, in an environmentally safe manner.

16 Oil discoveries here will reduce the reliance on  
17 uncertain foreign sources as well as reduce the dollars and  
18 jobs that are being exported to other countries. Benefits  
19 accrue directly to local individuals, state and local  
20 government. This program generates hundreds of millions of  
21 dollars in revenue each year, and when discoveries are made,  
22 more dollars are generated through royalties on production and  
23 corporate taxes. These monies are deposited directly in the  
24 Federal Treasury and then are reappropriated by Congress as  
25 they see fit to various other -- to various programs.

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1           For an example, the Land and Water Conservation Fund,  
2           which spent \$26 million here in the state of Alaska last year,  
3           receives 85 percent of its monies directly from oil and --  
4           offshore oil and gas receipts.

5           This Environmental Impact Statement formally pulls  
6           together almost two years of preparation. You have been part  
7           of that preparation through earlier comments on scoping and the  
8           call for information comments, and you're being asked once  
9           again to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and  
10          give us your comments on that. MMS has in place a host of  
11          regulations and operating rules that are designed to make  
12          offshore operations safe and clean. There are too many  
13          safeguards in place for me to go through all of them today, but  
14          I would like to highlight some of them so you know that there  
15          are some that are already in place.

16          First, before any exploration activities can begin,  
17          lessees that are successful in this sale, if the sale is held,  
18          have to prepare exploration plans. Those plans are reviewed by  
19          a host of people, including local and state governments and  
20          others, plus we have to review them, and we end up -- if we end  
21          up approving them before any drilling takes place. That's not  
22          the final word; they have to go through State coastal zone  
23          consistency before they can actually begin any kind of  
24          exploration. National pollution discharge elimination system  
25          permits, commonly referred to as NPDES permits, have to be

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1 obtained from the Environmental Protective Agency, which is a  
2 separate government agency from our office.

3           Next, if they're successful that far, an actual  
4 drilling permit is required. Once drilling is underway, a  
5 Minerals Management Service inspector will either be on the rig  
6 or nearby at all times. Then if a discovery is made, the  
7 planning and approval process starts all over again, including  
8 an environmental analysis. The federal government has numerous  
9 requirements to ensure drilling and well safety. A couple of  
10 those are: we require oil spill control and clean-up equipment  
11 to be in place at the drilling site and crews trained in its  
12 use. We require the use of best available and safest  
13 technology, third-party verification of drilling platforms, ice  
14 monitoring programs for winter operations, and detailed  
15 site-specific surveys for any possible geo-hazards.

16           To further reduce risks, many mitigating measures can  
17 be added through the Environmental Impact Statement process.  
18 For an example, some of those that have been added through this  
19 Environmental Impact Statement process in the past are: that  
20 we've established training programs which must be attended at  
21 least once a year by all on-site workers, and one of the  
22 purposes of those training programs are to educate the oil and  
23 gas workers about subsistence practices and their importance to  
24 that area. We've also, in the past, established a biological  
25 task force that advises the Minerals Management Service on any

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1 kind of biological concerns that might be in that area.

2 The Environmental Impact Statement process is a very  
3 important element in the entire decision-making process. The  
4 law requires that considerable consultation with the Governor,  
5 balancing national needs with the well-being of local  
6 citizens. The consultation process for this sale has been  
7 underway since early 1988 when the call for information was  
8 first published, and it will continue up until the final  
9 decision is made whether to proceed or not with the sale,  
10 sometime early in 1991.

11 I want to make sure everybody here understands that we  
12 don't take this proposal lightly, and we approach all leasing  
13 decisions very cautiously and carefully.

14 Today, I will call the speakers in order of which they  
15 have registered. If you wish to speak but have not already  
16 registered, please register with Dick, or the -- actually the  
17 sign-up sheet's back there on the table, on the side next to  
18 Dick there. If you haven't registered and wanted to speak,  
19 we'd sure appreciate if you'd register so that we can call you  
20 in that order. When you do speak, please state your name, your  
21 address and occupation, and organization you represent if you  
22 represent one. We need to have this information for the  
23 record. Please try to keep your comments somewhere about 10  
24 minutes.

25 If you have prepared statement, please give your

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1 prepared comments to the gentleman on the far right here, who  
2 is the court reporter and will make it part of the official  
3 record. If you wish to submit additional written testimony,  
4 give this material to the court reporter also.

5 An official recording will be made of this transc- --  
6 or a verbatim transcript of the hearing. Everything that is  
7 spoken while the hearing is in session will be recorded. To  
8 assure a complete and accurate record, it is important that  
9 only one person speak at a time, and I ask that everyone else  
10 remain as quiet as possible while the hearing is in progress.

11 Copies of the transcript are available through  
12 Executary, Mr. Richard Carl, the recorder at the end, and if  
13 you wish to get a copy, you can make arrangements with him  
14 after the hearing today to receive a copy. His number is  
15 272-4084. Minerals Management Service does not make  
16 arrangements for these copies. If you -- you can make your own  
17 arrangements with him if you wish to receive a copy. The  
18 information will be in the final EIS however.

19 These are not adversary proceedings. No one will be  
20 placed under oath; however, presentations should be support- --  
21 should be relevant and supported by pertinent data because,  
22 after all, the purpose of this hearing is to improve the  
23 quality of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Speakers  
24 will not be questioned unless a member of the panel wishes to  
25 have some facts clarified or to obtain additional information.

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1 Again, we are here to find out what your views of this draft  
2 Environmental Impact Statement are.

3 To help in this process, we have asked that a  
4 translator be present and will provide for us English  
5 translations of anybody that would prefer to speak in Inupiat  
6 rather than in English, and that is Mabel sitting over here at  
7 the table.

8 The comment period for this EIS closes on May 8th.  
9 Until that time, MMS will accept written comments and  
10 statements from anyone who would prefer to give oral -- written  
11 statements rather than oral or for any -- from anyone who can't  
12 make it today or has additional comments after today. We will  
13 be glad to take written comments up through May 8th. Those  
14 comments should be addressed to:

15 The Regional Director  
16 Minerals Management Service  
17 949 East 36th Avenue, Room 610  
18 Anchorage, AK 99508  
19 Attention: Dick Roberts

20 Any comments received prior to May 8th, 1990, will be included  
21 as part of the official hearing record. Now, if we get the  
22 comments after that date, we will review them and they will go  
23 into the next step, but we can't guarantee that they will be in  
24 the final EIS and will be answered in the final EIS because we  
25 have to have a cutoff date and May 8th, 1990 is the cutoff date

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1 as far as to make sure that the comments get in the draft and  
2 are answered in the final EIS.

3 Now I'll let Mabel translate that for those of you  
4 that would prefer to hear it in Inupiat.

5 0725

6 (The Hearing Officer's opening statement  
7 translated into Inupiat by the interpreter  
8 at this time)

9 1842

10 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. The first person  
11 that registered, Nelson. Is he here?

12 MR. SCHINDLER: Oh, out there.

13 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Right there. Okay. The chair  
14 is all yours. Would you -- yeah, would you come over there?  
15 See, that's next to the microphone so we can be sure and get  
16 what you.....

17 (Pause - Whispered comments)

18 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF NELSON AHVAKANA

19 I'm Reverend Nelson Ahvakana, and I cook at  
20 Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 11, Nuiqsut, Alaska. I guess my  
21 prefix indicates exactly, you know, what my occupation is, so  
22 I'm not going to go ahead and do it.

23 I'm grateful that I have the opportunity to be able to  
24 be here and present some concerns on the draft EIS. First of  
25 all, I would like for you people to know that I have never seen

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1 the draft EIS. The City of Nuiqsut may have received that  
2 about two weeks ago, but as an individual resident of Nuiqsut,  
3 I have never seen that draft, and therefore, it's very hard for  
4 me to address certain areas of concern that are listed there.  
5 But for your information, I would like to address certain areas  
6 that I have that would have adverse effect on this village.

7 I have been -- been here since 1982, and since then, I  
8 consider myself as a resident of Nuiqsut. I have done hunting,  
9 primarily in the Caldwell River. When -- when time allows and  
10 if I have someone available that would be able to direct me to  
11 come back to this village, I go out from the river. I'm not  
12 totally well as far as knowing the area, this area, is  
13 concerned. But I'm concerned whether the draft EIS really  
14 address the -- the survi- -- subsistence survival lifestyle of  
15 this villages or the villages within the North Slope.

16 It's very hard for our people to address, time after  
17 time after time, the concerns that they have. And when a  
18 meeting like this, which calibrates the concerns of our people,  
19 they never receive or hear what -- what really happened to  
20 those -- those statements that they had made. A lot of the  
21 people here don't speak English, and they don't write either.  
22 So it's very hard for them to -- to understand whether or not  
23 their concerns are -- are considered wholeheartedly by MMS.

24 Another concern that -- that draft EIS may not  
25 address -- I don't know whether it did or not -- is the fishing

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1 of the coastal villages, especially this village. They fish  
2 for whitefish, and they fish for -- for Arctic cisco, and these  
3 are practically a daily consumption requirements for -- you  
4 know, for these people here. It's like -- like having chicken  
5 on the table or steak on the table. But here, you have to go  
6 out, and if you don't, then you don't have nothing on your  
7 table. Whaling is very, very important. I'm sure that you  
8 have heard time after time the adverse effects that it's going  
9 to have once the sale is completed.

10 I don't know what has been written as far as draft EIS  
11 is concerned. Maybe I could ask Mr. Schindler, who is  
12 responsible for drafting the EIS, and he should know maybe, as  
13 being the head man of his people. But I'm not going to  
14 pressure him to do that. I'm sure that -- that Mr. Schindler  
15 cannot wholeheartedly, by memory, be able to address various  
16 concerns that are listed on that EIS. I don't know how thick  
17 it is or -- or whether it's one volume or whether it's two  
18 different books. I don't know; I've never seen it.

19 But the whaling that is done in this area, or along  
20 with -- with Barrow and also Kaktovik, is during the falltime,  
21 whaling, especially here. That's the only time that they go  
22 out, and people that are whaling captains do go out over 70  
23 miles from this village and stay out there at Cross Island  
24 for -- for at least month and a half without coming back to  
25 this village to do subsistence whaling.

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1           What adverse effects is this going to have on the  
2 whaling? It's so stated on the Alaska Offshore Oil and Gas  
3 Leasing Program, and I kind of laughed about it, on the  
4 question about, What about oil spills? It stated here that MMS  
5 also is responsible for ensuring that OCS oil and gas  
6 operations here do not pollute the environment. I hope this  
7 is -- this is true, but it made me to wonder of what happened  
8 down at -- at Valdez area and the problem that -- that they  
9 incur on an oil spill there through the tanker. I know that  
10 we're not talking about tankers here, but it would have  
11 probably about the same adverse effect in this area and maybe  
12 more.

13           Down there, they don't really have that much problem  
14 of ice that we have here. During the wintertime, the whole  
15 area is covered with ice, and therefore, if there -- if there  
16 is an oil spill, even though that -- that time after time we  
17 have been told that there's -- there's equipment available,  
18 there's people available that have the understanding, that have  
19 the know-how of working in -- in oil spills, really, that  
20 know-how didn't show me that much when -- when there was an oil  
21 spill down at Valdez. In fact, there is still problems down  
22 there being addressed there right now from that oil spill.  
23 We're talking only just -- just maybe -- maybe a million  
24 gallons or more. I don't know how -- how big it was, but the  
25 adverse effect of what an oil rig would have would be -- would

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- 14 -



1 be horrendous if there would be an oil spill here.

2 I believe that -- that the only knowledge that we  
3 would be able to have would be to actually see what -- what  
4 adverse effect it would have if it, one, would -- would have a  
5 blow-out during -- during drilling. Then, and then alone,  
6 would we be able to address thoroughly as to the -- the effects  
7 of that in the North Slope.

8 I don't believe that -- that MNS (sic) -- MMS should  
9 be security in their minds of the industry, an indication that  
10 they do have these -- these people available, that they are  
11 well trained, that these things will never happen. It's so  
12 stated here that -- that there have never been -- been an oil  
13 spill in Alaska from the -- from the drilling, the offshore.  
14 That may be true, but it only takes one to show whether or not  
15 people that is well educated, well able to put everything on  
16 paper, let's say, and the actuality of what they say when it  
17 comes to the reality of this thing. I think this could be a  
18 concern for the draft EIS.

19 And another concern should be the addressing of the  
20 Inupiat people. We're part of the habitats of this area. I  
21 don't believe that whoever is writing the EIS should be  
22 concerned just -- just of the animals and the species that are  
23 here in the North Slope; they should be concerned about the  
24 Inupiat people as well 'cause presently, we're surrounded here  
25 in this village, and before too long, once the total sale is

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1 completed and drilling takes place, there's going to be some  
2 restrictions that will be handed out to us again.

3 Like a good example is Prudhoe Bay. They say that  
4 that area is open for subsistence, and it's not. It's written  
5 on paper that it is, but the actuality, you go and take a rifle  
6 over there, the first things -- first thing that you're going  
7 to find out is -- is that the security's going to take care of  
8 you. They're not going to let you go anywhere, even though  
9 that you may say that I'm out here on subsistence hunt. They  
10 don't have no concern whatsoever about that; their concern  
11 primarily is the protection of that field, and this is exactly  
12 what's going to happen down there.

13 And our people here, they're, like I said, is  
14 surrounded (sic). The only area, hunting area, that we have  
15 during the summer is down there to the ocean and up the river.  
16 Now, you can go both ways because a person that's going to be  
17 getting food for the family for that day cannot get food for  
18 that day if he's walking. You try and walk and see how far you  
19 can go. I don't -- I don't think nowadays we could -- we could  
20 be able to do that. We're not like our forefathers; we're  
21 different. Everything changes, and we changed along with it.

22 But the adverse effects of what we have concern of  
23 needs to be really looked at wholeheartedly and included in the  
24 EIS before the final draft is made. And I thank you very much  
25 for giving me this opportunity to voice my concerns. Thank you.

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1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Isaac.

2 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF ISAAC NUKAPIGAK

3 (In Inupiat.) Thank you for coming over. My name's  
4 Isaac Nukapigak. I'm the President of a village corporation,  
5 and Post Office Box 187, Nuiqsut, Alaska.

6 Well, the only concern I really have right now on the  
7 Beaufort Sea Lease Sale 124 is the -- I know that for the fact  
8 is the federal government nor the Minerals Management Service  
9 don't have the technology of an oil spill clean-up. If an oil  
10 spill happened to occur out in the Beaufort Sea during the  
11 winter months, I know it's going to -- I know it's going to be  
12 hard cleaning up -- cleaning that oil.

13 (In Inupiat) for the oil spill down Exxon Valdez.  
14 That Exxon Valdez had killed a lot of migrating birds; beavers  
15 were killed. They were in thousands. If an oil spill happened  
16 to occur in the Beaufort Sea, we're looking at our subsistent  
17 resource. We have lot of migrating birds along the Peril (ph)  
18 Islands. If an oil spill happened to occur, that's what's  
19 going to happen too.

20 Oil companies, the U.S. federal come and don't have  
21 the technologies; I know for a fact. They don't have the  
22 technology still. They may have the manpower and the equipment  
23 to clean up the oil spill, but the technology, is still --  
24 hasn't there (sic).

25 I'm not against the oil and gas lease sale, but if

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1 this Beaufort Sea lease sale is to occur and the development of  
2 it, I would -- definitely would like to see the possible -- the  
3 safest way to remove the oil. Even if it takes decades to  
4 remove the oil from the Beaufort Sea, I think it be best we --  
5 if they take the oil real slowly. If you try take the oil out  
6 in the hurry, that will hurt too. A lot of mishaps can happen;  
7 from the mishaps, we're talk- -- we're also talking about what  
8 can happen to our -- our subsistence way of life. The ocean is  
9 our bread of our basket. We feed on it; that's where our  
10 nutrition, our diet. If an oil spill happened to occur, it's  
11 going to wipe -- wipe everything.

12 For -- also for instance, on the Exxon Valdez oil  
13 spill, there were too much lack of communication when it occur,  
14 too much chain of command, and by the time they had everything  
15 already under control, the oil was already spread 500 miles.  
16 That's what will intent (sic) going to happen if an oil spill  
17 occurred in the Beaufort Sea.

18 You may say that you have the manpower and the  
19 equipment to clean an oil spill. Technology, you may say you  
20 have the technology. I know that for a fact the federal  
21 government, oil companies, you may say they have the  
22 technology, but I know for a fact, I don't think -- they don't  
23 have the technology for cleaning oil spill.

24 That's all I got to say. Thank you.

25 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Isaac.

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1 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

2 MR. PALMER: Isaac, I wonder if you would enlighten  
3 me. We learned from experience that the most effective  
4 clean-up people they had in Prince William Sound were the local  
5 people. The fishermen that went to work cleaning up the area,  
6 it was the best people they had. And when they started, they  
7 didn't know anything about cleaning up oil.

8 MR. NUKAPIGAK: I know that for a fact when that thing  
9 happened, the oil companies did wake up; they waked up right  
10 away and started making some oil spill contingency plans.

11 MR. PALMER: What I wanted to ask you is, if we have  
12 heard that the industry is planning to train local people in  
13 the villages to respond in the form of oil spill clean-up  
14 strike force teams, have you been involved in anything.....

15 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Just.....

16 MR. PALMER: .....about that?

17 MR. NUKAPIGAK: .....actually also the -- also the  
18 commander of Nuiqsut Oil Spill Response Team. I definitely  
19 have went through training on the oil spill, and from the --  
20 the experience what I learned from this training, technology,  
21 it still needs to be there (indiscernible). Oil companies say  
22 that you may have -- they may say that they have the capability  
23 to cleaning a spill, but -- but if the oil spill occurred in  
24 the winter, in the winter months, underneath the ice, we're  
25 talking, 'cause of the different -- 'cause I know that the

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1 current moves any direction out in Beaufort Sea, and the ice is  
2 so thick and rough, it's going to be hard trying to clean up  
3 the spill. The oil companies say they have the equipment and  
4 the manpower to do it. Federal government, I know that for a  
5 fact, they still needs to do more research on the technology of  
6 oil spill clean-up.

7 MR. PALMER: Did they mention any possibility about  
8 strategically placing equipment and/or communication devices or  
9 anything to help in this area?

10 MR. NUKAPIGAK: Yes. That's all I got to say.

11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Thank you. Is there  
12 anybody that didn't register that would like to comment?

13 MR. SCHINDLER: There's another name on this.

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Oh.

15 MR. SCHINDLER: Not a first name, but Napageak.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Was -- that's Thomas, I --  
17 okay. Yeah.

18 MR. SCHINDLER: Oh, okay. He wants to be last.

19 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Yeah, he was going to be  
20 last. Okay.

21 MR. SCHINDLER: Was that your name that was scribbled  
22 so badly, Thomas?

23 (Laughter)

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: The Honorable Mayor.

25 (Simultaneous speech, laughter)

1 MR. SCHINDLER: Sorry about that. I couldn't tell  
2 what it was.

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Oh, I thought you knew that  
4 when I saw that.

5 MR. SCHINDLER: (Laughter.) No. Noticed he had  
6 written down here, he.....

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Well, I knew I (indiscernible).

8 MR. SCHINDLER: I couldn't read it. I'm blushing.

9 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF THOMAS NAPAGEAK

10 Before I get started, you know, I just kept  
11 remembering a question that was raised some time ago back in  
12 1974: Does one life have to die so another can live? This  
13 question was -- this question arose during the conference of  
14 Yukon-Kuskokwim residents.

15 My name is Thomas Napageak. I'm the Mayor of the City  
16 of Nuiqsut. And thank you for giving us the opportunity to  
17 voice out our concerns.

18 I would like to say one thing that I -- as I go  
19 through, I would like to translate to my own language because  
20 I'm speaking on behalf of the community, and most of what we  
21 have here has not been heard by them totally.

22 First of all, the thing that Nelson brought up, the  
23 Draft Environmental Impact Statements (in Inupiat), these got  
24 out of the offices of Minerals Management on the 20th of April,  
25 mailed that same day. The City of Nuiqsut received them

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1 April -- not April but March -- yeah, March 30th. Left their  
2 office March 20th; we received them the 30th. That gave us  
3 only two weeks to go through this book to be able to come up  
4 with a response.

5 (In Inupiat.)

6 And finally, this map that you see in my hand, I don't  
7 know how long ago it left their office, but we received it this  
8 morning from the post office.

9 (In Inupiat.)

10 I'm not speaking bad about you guys; I'm just simply  
11 trying to get across.....

12 MR. SCHINDLER: Well, right.

13 MR. NAPAGEAK: .....to the people I represent.

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: You know, we sent those First  
15 Class overnight express in the U.S. Postal Service.

16 (Laughter)

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: I can't say anything else.

18 MR. NAPAGEAK: Yes, I've got my City Clerk and the  
19 rest of my Council members here with me, and they'll verify  
20 the.....

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: No, I'm not questioning.....

22 MR. NAPAGEAK: .....the arrival.....

23 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: .....that at all. I mean, I'm  
24 just.....

25 MR. NAPAGEAK: .....of all this -- these documents.

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1 Attached is a draft response to the Environmental  
2 Impact Statement. It is my firm belief that the EIS has  
3 presented us with a statement which entailed a five- to  
4 ten-year period of study. The statement was mailed to the City  
5 of Nuiqsut in March 20th, 1990, and was received March 30th,  
6 1990. Thus, in appropriate -- approximate two-week period, we  
7 are expected to provide answers to a survey which spanned  
8 several years. The information contained in our draft response  
9 is basically accurate, although, given additional time, we  
10 could undoubtedly further our research.

11 (In Inupiat.)

12 As much as I would like to go through this whole  
13 response, I'm just going to highlight some of the issues that  
14 has been brought up. Nevertheless, I would like to highlight  
15 the most important subsistence species in the traditional  
16 lifestyle of the Inupiat people and recommend the following:

17 (In Inupiat.)

18 Further study in this area is necessary because  
19 reduction in the bowhead stock may result in reduction or  
20 elimination of bowhead quotas for subsistence hunters in the  
21 Inupiat community. Throughout the EIS, the draft concludes  
22 that effect on bowhead whales from noise disturbance will be  
23 very low or low; however, the effect on subsistence harvest  
24 patterns are expected to be very high in Nuiqsut area as a  
25 result of effect on bowhead whale harvest due to construction

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1 activities at Point Thompson, while moderate effects are  
2 expected at Barrow, Atqasuk, Wainwright, and Kaktovik.

3 (In Inupiat.)

4 (Cough) Excuse me. (Continuing in Inupiat.)

5 On one hand, the draft states that the effect on  
6 bowhead whales from noise disturbance will be low; on the other  
7 hand, the same draft states that the effect on the subsistence  
8 harvest from the reaction of bowhead whales to noise  
9 disturbance will be high. These findings are eternally  
10 inconsistent.

11 (In Inupiat.)

12 In Nuiqsut, the effect of subsistence harvest patterns  
13 will be very high because not only will the bowhead whale  
14 always be reduced or eliminated by construction activities, but  
15 the caribou hunt will be reduced as well by construction  
16 activities and the pipelines.

17 (In Inupiat.)

18 The bowhead whale hunt plays an important role in the  
19 Inupiat community. I'm pretty sure that John Schindler knows  
20 that very well. Whaling remains a primary subsistence activity  
21 for Nuiqsut; however, whales are not merely subsistence issues.

22 (In Inupiat.)

23 They are -- they are the single most important animal  
24 in the North Slope socio-cultural system. Inupiat whaling is a  
25 proud tradition that involves ceremonies, dancing, singing,

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1 visiting, and cooperation between communities in sharing of  
2 food.

3 (In Inupiat.)

4 There's a -- there is a high likelihood that the  
5 reduction or elimination of whaling could have severe  
6 ramification of the socio-cultural and family network system of  
7 the Inupiat community. Therefore, it is absolutely imperative  
8 that the Inupiat community and the oil industry work together  
9 to mitigate and -- mitigate the adverse impact on subsistence  
10 hunting. A way of life that has existed for centuries could  
11 not be eliminated in 30 year -- 30 years over which the leases  
12 on the Beaufort Sea will run.

13 (In Inupiat.)

14 In conclusion, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 124 should be  
15 postponed for several years while further research is conducted  
16 and, in particular, the bowhead whale. The sale should also be  
17 postponed until more scientific knowledge and more advanced  
18 equipment is available concerning the Arctic Ocean and its  
19 related temperatures and weather conditions. Delaying the sale  
20 may be the best possible solution to save but a fragile  
21 ecosystem of the Arctic Ocean and the Native subsistence  
22 hunting.

23 Additionally, if the sale was delayed long enough,  
24 fewer leases could be operating on the ecosystem at the same  
25 time. If the sale is finalized, individual Inupiat communities

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1 should be given more control in the process -- in the process  
2 from the beginning until the end. Mitigating measures, such as  
3 limiting drilling offshore to 80 feet, allowing -- only  
4 allowing bottom-founded drilling, and reducing industrial  
5 activities during the whale hunt seasons, should be agreed  
6 upon. The mitigating measures should be clearly detailed, and  
7 oil companies should be required to abide by the plan and  
8 sanctioned if they don't comply.

9           However, until the effects of the subsistence hunting  
10 can be reduced, Lease Sale 124 should not take place. The  
11 overall ramification on the Inupiat community is clearly too  
12 high.

13           And I would like to get back on some of the highlights  
14 of the findings that I was just speaking about.

15           (In Inupiat.)

16           The recent Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William  
17 Sound and the oil spill in Cook Inlet in July 1987 indicate  
18 that oil industry is unable to mitigate the effect of an oil  
19 spill. Even under sub-Arctic conditions, the IWC Scientific  
20 Committee recently found that -- this is what they found:

21           Recent emergency plans for oil spill containment and  
22 clean-up have not proved to be effective. In general,  
23 experience show that response to oil spills are slow and  
24 inadequate in remote areas with severe conditions. Even well  
25 designed contingency plans are likely to be difficult to

EXECUTARY

1 implement.

2 (In Inupiat.)

3 And again, I'd like to say that this is just a draft,  
4 and I understand that we've got till June.....

5 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: May 8th.

6 MR. NAPAGEAK: .....the eighth.

7 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: May, not June.

8 MR. NAPAGEAK: May the 8th. April, May; that's next  
9 month.

10 MR. SCHINDLER: Right.

11 (Whispered conversation)

12 MR. NAPAGEAK: And I would like to hang onto these  
13 drafts till they are finalized. These are just drafts -- I  
14 just receive them from our people in Anchorage, so I'd like to  
15 hang onto them temporarily.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: That's fine, yeah. Just be  
17 sure.....

18 MR. NAPAGEAK: If you have any questions, I'd be  
19 willing to answer them -- I'm full of answers.

20 (Laughter)

21 MR. SCHINDLER: Boy, we could use some. Thomas, you  
22 don't really need to clean those up if you don't want to. Just  
23 xerox them and send them in as they are; we'll take care of  
24 them.

25 MR. NAPAGEAK: Okay. Well, yeah.. What I'm going to

EXECUTARY

1 do is go through them again, and.....  
2 MR. SCHINDLER: Okay.  
3 MR. NAPAGEAK: .....if we have to add on a few more,  
4 we'll do that.  
5 MR. SCHINDLER: Good.  
6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Very good. Any questions?  
7 MR. PALMER: No.  
8 MR. SCHINDLER: No.  
9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you very much.  
10 MR. NAPAGEAK: Okay. Thank you.  
11 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Appreciate your time. Is  
12 there anybody else that didn't register that would like to make  
13 a comment before we close the hearing?  
14 THE INTERPRETER: (Translating into Inupiat.)  
15 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF SARAH KUNAKNANA  
16 (Ms. Kunaknana's testimony presented in Inupiat,  
17 translated into English by the Interpreter)  
18 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat) My name, Sarah  
19 Kunaknana. Sarah Kunaknana. (In Inupiat.)  
20 THE INTERPRETER: I do not understand every word that  
21 is being said in this meeting, but as I was growing up, I have  
22 noticed on what ice conditions can be like ever since as far  
23 back as I can remember because we lived on this northern  
24 coastal area most of my life.  
25 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

EXECUTARY

1 THE INTERPRETER: My parents have lived in the Cross  
2 Island area since I was little till I had grown to womanhood,  
3 and at that time, I have noticed what ice conditions can do,  
4 and it varies, what the ice conditions can do and what -- what  
5 it does.

6 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: One winter, we spent the winter  
8 there in the Cross Island area, and one day there was a real  
9 bad west wind storm. And at the time, one of my brothers died  
10 in the storm. And there are a lot of islands in that area. I  
11 do not know all of their English names, but I do know where  
12 they are. I only know them by their Inupiat -- what they are  
13 called by the Inupiat.

14 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

15 THE INTERPRETER: I have known all these islands that  
16 are right in front of Prudhoe Bay because that was the area  
17 where I was raised and growing up. And we have been traveling  
18 in the summertime by boat through that inlet, through that open  
19 bay at Prudhoe, and in the wintertime, we travel by dog team  
20 from one island to the other. And I want you to know that it's  
21 always a real hazard, especially when the wind is from the west  
22 during the wintertime. But at this time of the year, it would  
23 seem, like when the ice is more solid, that it's -- it would  
24 seem it was less hazardous than during early winter.

25 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

EXECUTARY

1 THE INTERPRETER: There was a time not too long ago,  
2 probably in 1983, there was a sign-up sheet at the store, at  
3 the Kup'ik (ph) Store, for those who want to go take a look-see  
4 at what goes on at Prudhoe.....

5 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: .....at Prudhoe, and then she was  
7 one of those people that signed up and then there was a plane  
8 that came to pick them up for those that want to have a  
9 sight-see on all of what Prudhoe was like.

10 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER: There weren't too many people who  
12 signed up to go on that trip, but I did go with two of my  
13 girls; they were very young at the time. And when we landed  
14 there at Prudhoe, we took a bus down to this man-made island  
15 that they had made there in that area. We went to the north  
16 end and to the south end; we did not get a chance to see all --  
17 everything that was being done there at the time.

18 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER: I do not have too much to say, but  
20 I'm really opposed to this sale as that is the migrating  
21 pattern of -- of the bowhead, especially the -- namely the  
22 bowhead. There are other animals, sea mammals, involved in  
23 that, but what really concerns us is the migrating whale  
24 because that is the path that they take during their  
25 migration. And when a whale is caught, no matter what village

EXECUTARY



1 you're in, it not only involves you. As I had a chance to go  
2 down to Cross Island when this whale was caught last fall, I  
3 had a chance to go down to Cross Island to see the whale  
4 because it not only involves the people of the village when a  
5 whale is caught, but some portions of it are sent out to other  
6 village that do not have any -- any oil or blubber to use. Not  
7 only that, but there are occasions during Christmas and  
8 Thanksgiving feasts that we all get a share from this one  
9 whaling captain that caught this whale.

10 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

11 THE INTERPRETER: And it's been over a year since that  
12 Exxon Valdez oil spill. Though I do not understand all that is  
13 being said during the news-time that -- but I did see what  
14 it -- what the oil spill can do to the sea mammals that live in  
15 the ocean, how they suffer and what it does to them. And then  
16 it makes me wonder how much harder for a clean-up in our part  
17 of the country where there was nothing that one can do to that  
18 Exxon Valdez oil spill when it occurred down at that Prince  
19 William Sound, how much harder it will be for the clean-up when  
20 it happens here where there's ice conditions, when you have to  
21 tackle with the ice too.

22 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

23 THE INTERPRETER: There was a time when some company  
24 came up to her personally and wanted -- I believe it was in  
25 1974, and they wanted to know what her opinion would be on

EXECUTARY

1 this -- on this one. But she told them that since this -- he  
2 cannot make a personal decision for -- on that, she requested,  
3 at the time, that the whole commu- -- that the community as a  
4 whole be notified of this -- about this.

5 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

6 THE INTERPRETER: And at the time, she told this guy  
7 that showed up at her house for the interview that should  
8 there be an oil spill, just imagine what it can do to the  
9 migrating fowl when one of their feathers gets soaked up in  
10 oil; it can't fly away and what -- what would be the best thing  
11 to do about it. And with this, I give to you as my closing  
12 comment.

13 MS. KUNAKNANA: (In Inupiat)

14 THE INTERPRETER: And she wants to thank you that you  
15 have a translator as she attended this meeting. Thank you for  
16 coming here.

17 MS. KUNAKNANA: Thank you.

18 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you. Anyone else? Sir?

19 (Whispered conversation)

20 MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

21 THE INTERPRETER: I want -- I came here to say  
22 something, to give you my comments. This is Joseph Ericklook.

23 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Joseph -- how do you spell  
24 that last name?

25 MR. ERICKLOOK: E-r-i-c-k-l-o-o-k.

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PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH ERICKLOOK

(Mr. Ericklook's testimony presented in Inupiat,  
translated into English by the Interpreter)

MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

THE INTERPRETER: I see that you are writing down  
every comment, and therefore, I would like all these written  
comments that you are writing, we'd like here. We'd like for  
you to have a copy of everything that is being said here in our  
community.

MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

THE INTERPRETER: We have a copy machine available  
here in the building, and therefore, we want to see exactly  
what and how all this meeting is going on and what effects it  
will have.

MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

THE INTERPRETER: Whenever we have a public hearing,  
all these people that come in for the hearing would leave right  
away and not leave us any copy or anything to remind us of what  
had taken place, actually taken place, at the meeting.

MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

THE INTERPRETER: There are many of us who don't know  
exactly what goes on at the meeting, and therefore, if there  
were any changes made, any alterations made on all the  
comments, we would -- therefore, we want to see, in writing,  
what everything -- what goes on in all these meetings.

EXECUTARY

1 MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

2 THE INTERPRETER: And it's been two years now, and  
3 then we have this promise in these meetings, promises in these  
4 meetings, that jobs would be available, but it's been two years  
5 now, and there has been no job available as of yet.

6 MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: As of now, I am unemployed. I'd  
8 like to subsistence hunt most of all, but to compensate that,  
9 I -- I'm also eligible as heavy equipment operator, as a  
10 carpenter, or as a laborer, what -- whatever is required  
11 that -- of me I can handle on that.

12 MR. ERICKLOOK: (In Inupiat)

13 THE INTERPRETER: I want to thank you for giving me  
14 this opportunity to give my comments. I have no other comments  
15 to make.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

17 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF JOE KASAK

18 My name is Joe Kasak, and I'm with ICAS in Barrow; I'm  
19 representing Nuiqsut for ICAS. And I got only few.....

20 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Sir, could I get you to spell  
21 your last name? I wasn't -- I'm.....

22 MR. KASAK: K-a-s-a-k.

23 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Okay. Go ahead.

24 MR. NASAK: Yes, I'd just like to point out what --  
25 had a question. What was causing all these caribous to die off

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1 like last summer and this summer -- and, I mean, this winter  
2 too? And how much relationship you got with the Fish and Game  
3 personnel? And what developments they give you from all the  
4 findings they have been finding from these dead caribous? Like  
5 last summer, there was a herd of caribous coming out from the  
6 east and they were crossing the Nerluk (ph) Channel, and some  
7 people were killing some caribous. And they find that the --  
8 the skinny ones they found were discolored on their meat. And  
9 what would cause that discoloration of the meat they found?

10 And what I guess would be caused by that laying around  
11 over there by Prudhoe Bay where all that burning that gas with  
12 their chemical mixed with it may have caused that or  
13 something. And some of these -- when the people go out to  
14 Prudhoe Bay for a clean-up job, you know, volunteer type, you  
15 know, with small pay, they always have something to say about  
16 these birds being dead out there.

17 And I don't have very much to say. Just wanted to  
18 point out and ask you if you had any close relation with the --  
19 the Fish and Game management and what kind of evidence they  
20 give you on those -- the finding they have on -- from those  
21 animals.

22 (Whispered conversation)

23 MR. PALMER: The Fish and Wildlife Service is one of  
24 ten bureaus in the Department of Interior.

25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: No, he's just talking about

EXECUTARY

1 Fish and Game.

2 MR. SCHINDLER: Fish and Game.

3 MR. PALMER: Oh, it's the -- if it's the State Fish  
4 and Game, we have no association with them whatsoever.

5 MR. SCHINDLER: Well, my analyst.....

6 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We get information -- go ahead.

7 MR. SCHINDLER: .....has talked to them, but they  
8 have -- they really didn't give us any data at all. We've been  
9 trying to find out also, Joseph. Don Hanson has been doing  
10 this, but I have not heard any results at all, so I can't tell  
11 you.

12 MR. ERICKLOOK: Yeah. I'd like to add this on: If a  
13 person, a Native local, is out there hunting and can't find  
14 nothing, no games at all, and if he's very hungry and he just  
15 go out there, there's some caribous, dead caribous, out there  
16 right now, and would you ask him to eat that?

17 MR. SCHINDLER: I don't know.

18 MR. ERICKLOOK: That's about all I got to say. Thank  
19 you.

20 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Joseph.

21 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

22 MR. PALMER: Who do you pass on something like that to?

23 MR. SCHINDLER: Yeah, I'll get it down to Don.

24 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: We'll get Don to -- yeah.  
25 We'll pass it on to State Fish and Game.

EXECUTARY

(Whispered comments)

MS. GEGOSEAK: I'm Margaret Gegoseak from Nuiqsut.

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Would you.....

MS. GEGOSEAK: Gegoseak, G-e-g-o-s-e-a-k.

HEARING OFFICER BROCK: G-e-o-.....

MS. GEGOSEAK: From Nuiqsut. G-e-g-o-s-e-a-k.

MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MARGARET GEGOSEAK

I have a grand-grand-aunt and grand-grand-uncles in probably all the villages. The whole family is everywhere in all the villages.

My concern is to let you know my feelings, as my kids grow up, 'cause I'm pretty young, but I would like to speak out for my feelings. Why does everybody get a paper and just come along and try to have everybody -- let them know what kind of food they shouldn't have or -- or they shouldn't be hunting on this time of year. But one thing I would like to know is, just like when you have your vegetables, you like to be healthy. But on my growing up, I've been healthy since I was a little girl, actually or a little baby 'cause of having all the food in the ocean, anywhere that flies, or in the ground. We have these little -- anything that grow we eat.

It's like having a farm, but we share it. We don't show it off and put it in the paper, and we don't put it in a tape. Probably our grand-grand-aunts, if they were alive, if

EXECUTARY

1 they had such a machine like everybody has in down states, or  
2 if they were smart enough to have a machine like everybody has  
3 and papers and pencils, they probably would have wrote it  
4 down. But on my growing up, I've been real healthy, and I  
5 would like my kids to be the same thing if I die. And if they  
6 have kids, then I would like them to eat the same food I'm  
7 eating today. And anything that spill in the ocean, it hurts  
8 me 'cause the food I love to eat is just ruined. And bless --  
9 I am very happy to be here and speak up.

10 My feelings hurt, but I wouldn't want no one to ever  
11 hurt my food that I eat, just like a vegetable. There's lot of  
12 people in states and Alaska have feelings of what they eat in  
13 store, but we don't go to the store and buy it; we hunt for it,  
14 and we share it. And I am happy to be here. Thank you.

15 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you, Margaret.

16 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

17 MR. SCHINDLER: Very nice.

18 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF BERNICE PASULA

19 Hi. My name is Bernice Pasula. I'm a resident of  
20 Nuiqsut. I am a subsistence hunter, and I'm also a whaler.  
21 I've gone fall whaling, and I've gone spring whaling.

22 But first of all, I'd like to apologize for not being  
23 here in the beginning since I know this is important, but we  
24 people that have jobs, as you know, come first. We have to.....

25 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: That's right.

EXECUTARY



1 MS. PASULA: .....make money to put food on the table  
2 other than subsistence.

3 My concern is, we as individuals way back then, having  
4 no education or understanding of what went on when Prudhoe Bay  
5 was first established, like when the Native allotments were  
6 being issued and deadlines set for my -- my father and his  
7 grandparents. My father and my grandparents were whalers; they  
8 have a sod house and an ice cellar out by the coast out at West  
9 Stock, where we've been fighting for for the last so many  
10 years. My father had lost it due to the fact that he didn't  
11 make the deadline for the Native allotment, and we're still  
12 battling to get that. But we the people here, we all know who  
13 it really belongs to, in our family, and the federal government  
14 ain't helping us or assisting us in trying to obtain what is  
15 rightfully ours.

16 And right now, what we are talking about is the  
17 ocean. Nobody owns the ocean except what you guys say you guys  
18 do, the federal government, just like what they're doing in  
19 Prudhoe Bay. So therefore then, you guys are battling us, the  
20 whole community, and I'm just concerned about what we have to  
21 fight with. We have no -- no -- we have no deeds to that ocean  
22 but to tell you that it's being used year after year for  
23 whaling for so long. It goes way back to 1800s, and it's still  
24 being used. And as far as I'm concerned, the impact of sale to  
25 open up -- open it up for drilling would hurt us.

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1           You guys have no promises in writing that you'll  
2   guarantee us jobs, security, because as far as I know, you guys  
3   look for qualification in paper. Are you a qualified  
4   operator? Do you have proof? Have you gone to school, or can  
5   you speak English? And as far as I know, in Prudhoe you have  
6   to be so much qualified to be working over there. And the  
7   people around here, how can you get experience without going on  
8   the job and training? How do we know what kind of  
9   opportunities we will have? What -- what do we gain from  
10   this? Just like you say you have everything in writing, what  
11   do we gain from it in writing? Can we have it in writing?  
12   'Cause if we have it in writing and you go back on your word,  
13   then we could go to court and tell you you've said it.

14           All this is so frustrating 'cause in today's world,  
15   everything -- nothing can be done without money -- in your  
16   world. And to get out of that world is to go out and subsist.  
17   I am -- I am a whaler, and I am proud to be a whaler, and my  
18   kids will be whalers too for as long as it'll go on, and maybe  
19   someday I'll have my own crew, and that's my dream. And I just  
20   would like to know what kind of impact all this would have in  
21   the opening of this lease sale and what guarantees we have.  
22   What do you have to offer us? 'Cause that specific part of the  
23   area cannot be replaced. We can't go so far to go out and to  
24   go whaling.

25           When you're out on the ice, everything happens real

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1 fast, and anything could happen in less two, three minutes.  
2 When you're out on the ice, when the wind changes, opens a  
3 crack, then you have an open lead all of a sudden. Then you  
4 have to pack everything and go to safe ice. It happens real  
5 fast, even closing. It's -- it's rough out there. And the  
6 difference with Prince William Sound is that it's warmer down  
7 there and it's colder up here. What kind of studies is there  
8 in the Arctic Slope that has done drilling in the Arctic  
9 Slope? What -- what's the success rate? Has there been any  
10 drilling in the Arctic Slope in the ocean? How do we know  
11 it'll work?

12 I just want to be assured that my family and my  
13 family's family will be able to subsist because the jobs you  
14 find around here, the pay scales are so low sometimes it's not  
15 enough and you have to go out and subsist. You only make  
16 enough to pay your rent, utilities, and heat. And I -- I just  
17 want to specify that, you know, there is a lot of people out  
18 there that do not understand or cannot speak or write English  
19 still, and from my past experience, I have lost some things  
20 because of my parents not being able to read or write; then  
21 they had lost what was rightfully theirs. And it's sad to see  
22 that nobody wants to help.

23 And I just like what Joe Ericklook was saying. I  
24 think that was the best thing that he ever brought up, was to  
25 put it all in writing. I do like to see everything in writing

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1 and read what goes on and what is going to be expected.

2 (Whispered comment)

3 MS. PASULA: That's all. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

5 (Whispered comments)

6 PUBLIC TESTIMONY OF MARJORIE AHNUPKNAK

7 (Ms. Ahnupknak's testimony presented in Inupiat,  
8 translated into English by the Interpreter)

9 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: My name is Marjorie Ahnupknak. I  
11 work for the.....

12 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Could you spell that?

13 THE INTERPRETER: Spell (in Inupiat).

14 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Qwenna (sic).

15 MS. AHNUPKNAK: My last name? A-h-n-u-p-k-n-a-k.

16 (Continuing in Inupiat)

17 THE INTERPRETER: I have never spoken in meetings  
18 before, but since I was raised here, I was born and raised here  
19 in this part of the country. Because of the fact that my  
20 parents loved this part of the country where they spent their  
21 livelihood, most of what they did was mostly livelihood in this  
22 part of the country.

23 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

24 THE INTERPRETER: As we were growing up, our  
25 grandfather would tell us stories, and he would -- in one of

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1 his stories, he would include that times would not always be  
2 like this, but there would come a time when livelihood would be  
3 so hard, would be so hard to -- to do any subsistence hunting.

4 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: And then grandfather would continue  
6 to tell us that there would be -- there would come a time when  
7 there would be a lot of white people coming and going in this  
8 part of the country.

9 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

10 THE INTERPRETER: At the time since that time, since  
11 grandfather told us these stories, he has been dead a long  
12 time. But I'll always remember what he has said, that  
13 livelihood and subsistence hunting will not be as plentiful as  
14 it is now; in fact, there would come a time when there would  
15 be -- when there would be starvation upon the land. They'd --  
16 they'd go hungry because all this -- all the game will be gone;  
17 it won't be available anymore.

18 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

19 THE INTERPRETER: At the time we were growing up, they  
20 would take us down to the islands during May. We'd spend  
21 the -- we'd spend that time down in the islands till mid-June,  
22 and then we'd go back up river where game was now available up  
23 river, and we'd spend some time there where there was game.  
24 And so from that experience, I remember what grandpa used to  
25 say, that there would come a time when the white man -- there

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1 would be a lot of white people coming and going, and the times  
2 have arrived that -- since you are always coming and going for  
3 the meetings. What -- what -- from one company to the other,  
4 there are people who -- which are always coming and going for  
5 one meeting or that meeting.

6 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

7 THE INTERPRETER: Since the whale is not the only sea  
8 mammal of our ocean, there are game of every size and every  
9 kind, even the little bitty fish will be harmed should an --  
10 should there be a blow-out in one of the oil rigs. True, there  
11 are times you are taking every precaution, but there are also  
12 times when the inevitable happens -- happens. And so should  
13 the blow-out occur, what -- what technology or what equipment  
14 can go under the ice and clean up this spill? And what  
15 grandfather used to say, because of the spill, every living  
16 mammal will be harmed and not edible to eat anymore because of  
17 that, and therefore, there is coming a time, what my  
18 grandfather used to say, is just about to happen.

19 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

20 THE INTERPRETER: And so therefore, those times are  
21 upon us, what grandfather had been telling us all the while,  
22 because there are game on land that are dying off by  
23 themselves. There -- it may be due to the fact that some  
24 clean-up job was not done thoroughly someplace, and therefore,  
25 all those contaminants, or the contaminants used in cleaning up

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1 the spill, may have been very well the reason for these animals  
2 to die off by themselves. We do not know for a fact what they  
3 are dying from.

4 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

5 THE INTERPRETER: When I was growing up a child, my  
6 parents would be traveling to and from throughout this part of  
7 the country, and then I would notice the grass or every living  
8 thing on the ground that grows would get to grow to be so big.  
9 But since I came back after leaving this part of the country  
10 for a short while, since I came back in '73, even the growth on  
11 the grass or every living thing on the ground that grows does  
12 not grow as it used to when I was -- when all the while we were  
13 growing up and being raised around here in this part of the  
14 country.

15 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

16 THE INTERPRETER: And so therefore, with that as an  
17 example, whenever that blow-out happens down in the oil rigs in  
18 the -- on -- after these sales are done and over with, should  
19 that blow-out occur, it's very possible that every living sea  
20 mammal that is in the ocean is not going to be living, but it  
21 will be dead -- everything will be dead that is in the ocean.

22 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

23 THE INTERPRETER: And so therefore, our children will  
24 have a harder time than what we are going through right now  
25 because -- because of that.

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1 MS. AHNUPKNAK: (In Inupiat)

2 THE INTERPRETER: This is all.

3 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: Thank you.

4 MR. SCHINDLER: Thank you.

5 MS. PASULA: I'd just like one comment that I wish  
6 that they would set the public hearings at a time where people  
7 can show up that are working. And will this be the only time  
8 you'll take a public hearing from the community of Nuiqsut?

9 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: This is the only time we'll be  
10 here, but all written comments will be received up -- right up  
11 until May the 8th when we get -- when we have to have them for  
12 the -- to get them in the final Impact Statement. And we did  
13 work with the Mayor's Office in order to set the time. So we  
14 set the best time that we could.

15 Any other comments?

16 (No response)

17 HEARING OFFICER BROCK: If not, I certainly want to  
18 thank you for being here. It's now three -- almost 3:40, and  
19 we'll close the hearing. Thank you again.

20 (Off record)

21 (Whereupon, the proceedings in the above-entitled  
22 matter were adjourned at 3:40 o'clock p.m.)  
23  
24  
25

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

Cindy S. Carl  
Cindy S. Carl, CCR

5/2/90  
Date

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